

----- Manasseh 55 years -----

3306c AM, 4016 JP, 698 BC

683. Hezekiah was buried in the upper part of the sepulchres of the family of David. All Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem paid him every honour possible. {#2Ch 32:33} After Hezekiah, Manasseh his son reigned for fifty-five years. {#2Ki 21:1 2Ch 33:1} He again set up the high places which his father Hezekiah had pulled down. He built altars to all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord. He made his son pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom. He used divinations, sorceries and soothsayings, and set up a molten image in the house of the Lord. He caused Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to sin and do worse than all the nations whom God had driven out before the Israelites. {#2Ki 21:2-11 2Ch 33:2-9} He also shed much innocent blood, to the extent that he filled Jerusalem with it. In addition to his own sin, he made Judah sin and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord. {#2Ki 21:16 24:4} Manasseh is thought to have sawn the prophet Isaiah in half with a wooden saw. The Babylonian Talmud in their treatise, Justin Martyr {Justin Martyr, Tryphon} and Jerome, speaking of the passage in Isaiah {#Isa 20:1-6 57:1-21}, and others of our men, explain the phrase were sawn in pieces as referring to the passage in Hebrews and relate it to Manasseh and Isaiah. {#Heb 11:37} [L107]

**684. They considered the following words to refer to Isaiah's prophecies for God threatened that:**

**"And I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria, and the plummet of the house of Ahab: and I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down." {#2Ki 21:13}**

**3327 AM, 4037 JP, 677 BC**

**697. In this year the prophecy was fulfilled that was spoken by Isaiah. {#Isa 7:8} Within sixty-five years from the beginning of the reign of Ahaz, Ephraim would be conquered and never be a country again. For although most of them were carried away by Shalmaneser forty-four years earlier and the kingdom was utterly destroyed, yet among those who were left there was some form of government. But they now ceased to be a distinct people because of the many foreigners who came to live there. Compared to the total population, the small number of the Ephraimites was insignificant. A few remained in their country, as appears from the story of Josiah. {#2Ch 34:6,7,33 35:18 2Ki 23:19,20} Every now and then there were new colonies of people sent from Babel, Cush, Halvah and Sepharvaim, to live in Samaria and its cities. {#2Ki 17:24} This was done by Esarhaddon, king of Assyria (who was also called Asnappar the Great and**

**Magnificent). This is evident from the confession of the Cushites in Ezra. {#Ezr 4:2,10}**

**698. At the same time as Israel was conquered, Judah was attacked by the same Assyrian army. They captured Manasseh, the king, as he was hiding in a thicket. They bound him with chains of brass and carried him captive into Babylon. {#2Ch 33:11} Some think this calamity was foretold by the prophet Isaiah, when he said:**

**"within sixty-five years Ephraim shall be so broken in pieces, that it shall be no more a people. And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah: And if you will not believe, you shall not be established." {#Isa 7:8,9}**

**699. Jacobus Capellus noted in his history that they (the Jews) themselves would be broken in pieces as well. Furthermore, he added that the Jews in Seder Olam's Rabba, and the Talmudists cited by Rabbi Kimchi in his comment on Ezekiel, also stated this. {#Eze 4:1-17}**

**700. In the twenty-second year of Manasseh's reign he was carried away captive into Babylon. [L109] After he repented of his sin, God restored him again to his kingdom, thirty-three years before his death. {#2Ch 33:12,13} It is likely that**

**his captivity did not last very long, since no mention is made of it in Kings. {#2Ki 21:1-18} It is recorded that he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. {#2Ki 21:1 2Ch 33:1}**

**3361c AM, 4071 JP, 643 BC**

**717. In this year king Manasseh died who had previously returned from his captivity. He had partly restored the true worship of God, which he had formerly discredited. When he died he was buried in the garden of his own house. {#2Ch 33:1-16 2Ki 21:18} [L112] According to his last will or testament, as if repenting for his former evil doings, he deemed himself unworthy to lie among his own royal ancestors. {Tremellius}**